

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/877,155 06/17/97 CORMIER

M ARC2466R1

QM32/0906

EXAMINER

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KENNEDY, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED:

09/06/01

27

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	Cormier et al
	08/877,155		
Examiner	Sharon Kennedy	Art Unit	3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jul 30, 2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 6, 7, 30, 31, 55, 57-74, 76-78, 80-91, 93-97, and 99-103 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 6, 7, 30, 31, 55, 57, 59-74, 76, 78, 80-91, 93-97, and 99-103 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 58 and 77 is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d)

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.

3 Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in application.

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 20) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 6, 7, 30, 31, 55, 57, 59-74, 76, 78, 80-91, 93-97, 99-103 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ganderton, US 3,814,097. Regarding claims 6, 7, 30, 31, 55, 57, 59-62, 65-68, 71-74, 76, 78, 80, 83-86, 9-91, 93, 94, 99-100, it is agreed that Ganderton does not anticipate the claims for the reasons stipulated in applicant's last response. However, the examiner considers the modification to be obvious as a mere design choice, particularly in view of the case law set forth in MPEP §2144.04, V, *Making Portable, Integral, Separable, Adjustable, or Continuous*. Regarding claims 63, 64, 69, 70, 81, 82, 87, 88, 95-97, 101-103, see the comments set forth in the previous action.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 58 and 77 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharon Kennedy whose telephone number is (703) 305-0154.

September 5, 2001

Sharon Kennedy
Sharon Kennedy
Primary Examiner